

The BROAD AX

HEW TO THE LINE; LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY

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Don't Strike on Eve of War, Wilson to Ask; Will Appeal to Patriotism of Unions to Avert Tieup Now

Washington, D. C., March 16 (Special).—President Wilson will employ every means within his constituted authority to avert the railroad strike, according to information from the White House.

Advised that the brotherhoods, after breaking with the railroad executives in the New York conference have called the strike for Saturday night, Mr. Wilson is preparing an appeal to the patriotism of the unions, asking them to desist from carrying their threat into effect when the country is on the brink of war.

Pledge in Letter.

The president construes the letter of March 7 addressed to him by the four brotherhood leaders as a pledge that they would do nothing to embarrass the nation not only in time of war but when war is threatened. In their letter the brotherhood leaders said:

"We are very hopeful of working out a satisfactory adjustment with the railroads, but, if while we are negotiating, our country should become involved in war, we want to assure you, as chief executive of the nation, that we and the membership we represent can be relied upon to support you to the fullest extent and that yourself and the nation will have our hearty and full support."

As Wilson Sees It.

Although this pledge refers specifically only to conditions such as would exist if the nation actually should become involved in war, the president holds that in the present state of American relations with Germany it is quite imperative to maintain uninterrupted transportation as it would be if actual hostilities were in progress.

Mr. Wilson disclaims any intention of seeking to further the interests of the railroads and insists that he appeals to the brotherhoods on behalf of the American people and in the interest of a nation that almost any moment may be called upon to put forth its utmost energies in conflict with a foreign foe.

Some for Drastic Move.

Whether the appeal the president is preparing actually will be sent to the unions is a question that probably will be determined by Mr. Wilson and his cabinet advisers. There are some members of the cabinet who are opposed to making any further representations to the brotherhoods and in favor of adopting more vigorous measures to keep the railroads in operation.

According to some constitutional lawyers in the administration, the president is clothed with sufficient power under the general welfare clause of the constitution to take possession of the railroads and compel the employees to operate them under a sort of martial law.

That doubt of this executive authority was entertained by the president last August, however, is made manifest by his appeal to congress for legislation empowering him to take over and operate the transportation lines as a military necessity.

Mediation Board May Act.

That some move may be made by the board of mediation and conciliation was indicated tonight when members of the board conferred informally soon after news of the strike order reached Washington.

"I cannot say that nothing is being done," said William L. Chambliss, commissioner of the board, "but what is being done I am not at liberty to say."

Hears News at Dinner.

President Wilson first heard the news of the strike order from Secretary Tamm, who notified him from his home by telephone late in the evening. The president was at dinner. Immediately he communicated with Secretary of Labor Wilson by telephone, and there were several exchanges between them over the wire during the evening.

The White House was deluged with telegrams from all parts of the country appealing to the president to take action to avert the strike. Chicago business concerns contributed a large proportion.

FOUNDER'S DAY EXERCISES AT TUSKEGEE, APRIL FIFTH

Teachers of Colored Schools Invited to Hold Memorial Exercises on this Day and to Ask Children to Contribute to Memorial Fund.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama (Special).—One of the very impressive tributes to the late Dr. Booker T. Washington has been honored was the contribution of the colored school children, on April 5, 1916, to the Booker T. Washington Memorial Fund. When called upon, the children responded with nickels and dimes and in some instances they brought butter and eggs which their teachers converted into cash and forwarded to Tuskegee Institute for the Memorial Fund.

Such a popular demonstration of love and loyalty has not been exhibited since the campaign was launched, and it has been suggested that the colored schools be again invited to contribute to the Memorial Fund and also to conduct suitable memorial exercises on April 5 of this year.

Founder's Day exercises will be held at Tuskegee Institute on this date and we invite teachers in all the colored schools to hold similar exercises in their schools on this anniversary of Dr. Washington's birthday. The collection will afford those children who were un-

able to contribute last April to do their part in helping to perpetuate the work which was founded here at Tuskegee Institute for the industrial advancement of the Negro race. A certificate which may be framed, showing Dr. Washington's picture, a picture of the house in which he was born, and Tuskegee's most important building, will be sent to each individual and school sending \$5.00 or more.

Local memorial fund committees are also invited to conduct appropriate exercises April 5th. Such an occasion would be an opportune time to direct the attention of the various communities to the work and purposes of the local memorial fund committees.

Pamphlets containing some memorial addresses delivered since Dr. Washington's death which may be used in suggesting memorial programs may be had by addressing the request to Emmett J. Scott, secretary, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, in charge of the effort to raise funds among the colored people, to whom also contributions should be promptly forwarded.

Dr. Sumner A. Furniss, one of the leading colored citizens of Indianapolis, Ind., has been nominated by the republican party of that city at the primaries to make the race for councilman from the fourth city district. He has the honor of being the first colored man to be thus honored in the capital of the hoosier state.

A NEGRO'S REBUKE

(The following editorial would be worth reproducing, no matter what its source. Coming from a southern paper, the Louisville Courier-Journal, it not only serves to pay deserved tribute to a Negro leader, but shows the attitude of the new south on the race question.)

With all his genius and culture, Roscoe Conkling Simmons is a Negro. His college degrees and personal refinement can not change his blood or color or make him one bit less a member of a race regarded as socially, economically and mentally inferior to the white.

That Louisville is proud of him as a citizen; that the Negro people of the country look to him for leadership much as they did to his illustrious uncle, Booker T. Washington; that men of prominence in the nation accord him fellowship and a place in high councils, does not change his status.

For these very reasons, his words, spoken the other day before a gathering of his own race, should spread a blush of shame on the Caucasian skins of some who are conspicuous in the eyes of the nation just now. When men of superior learning and vaunted super-race connections, intrusted with the solemn duty of serving and protecting their country's destiny, join with foreign tyrant cut-throats to heap contumely upon the nation's head and tie his hands stretched out to protect the lives and rights of Americans; when sniveling white pacifists join with all the traitor-slacker crew to invite national disgrace and ruin, well may this member of an "inferior race" boast:

"We have a record to defend, but no treason, thank God, to atone or explain. While in chains we fought to free White men—from Lexington to Carrizal—and returned again to our chains. No Negro has ever insulted the flag. No Negro ever struck down a president of these United States. No Negro ever sold a military map or secret to a foreign government. No Negro ever ran under fire or lost an opportunity to serve, to fight, to bleed and to die in the republic's cause. Accuse us of what you will—justly and wrongly—no man can point to a single instance of our disloyalty."

"We have but one country and one flag, the flag that set us free. Its language is our only tongue, and no hyphen bridges or qualifies our loyalty. Today the nation faces danger from a foreign foe, treason stalks and skulks up and down our land, in dark councils intrigue is being hatched. I am a republican, but a Wilson republican. Woodrow Wilson is my leader. What he commands me to do I shall do. Where he commands me to go I shall go. If he calls me to the colors, I shall not ask whether my colonel is black or white. I shall be there to pick out no color except the white of the enemy's eye. Grievances I have against this people, against this government. Injustice to me there is, bad laws there are upon the statute books, but in this hour of peril I forget—and you must forget—all thoughts of self or race, or creed, or politics, or color. That, boys, is loyalty."

That this address was a notable piece of diction and oratory means little, save as a tribute to the talent and erudition of its author and an augury of what may come from others of his race when given his opportunities. As a rebuke to the traitors and Americans not worthy of the name it deserves the widest reading, while such White men as La Follette, Stone, O'Gorman, Vardaman, Works, Bryan and all their ilk, instead, perhaps, of being tarred and feathered black, should be forced to read these words of a black man.

BETHEL LITERARY SOCIETY

The Hon. Geo. W. Ellis will address Bethel Literary Society Sunday, March 18th, at 4 p. m. Subject, "The Status of the Negro in the Inter-racial Crisis." The subject will be discussed by the floor members. Everybody cordially invited. Good music. Dr. W. D. Cook, pastor. Sandy W. Trice, president. J. T. Weakley, secretary.

How to beat the high cost of living—go to minstrel show April 9th and you will "laugh and grow fat."



HON. CHARLES M. WALKER

One of the best and most popular judges of the Circuit Court of Cook county, who ably and fairly presided during the famous Patrick H. O'Donnell and Charles E. Erbstein trial in the Criminal Court and who was upbraided and reprimanded by the Hon. State's Attorney because he would not swerve from his sworn duty.

UNDAUNTED BY FIVE WOUNDS.

Chicago Colored Man Wins Praise for Bravery in France.

STARTED ADVENTURES BY CAPTURING SPY ABOUT TO BLOW UP SHIP.

Paris, France.—Francis Kane, a powerful six foot colored man from Chicago, formerly a soldier in the 24th United States infantry, but now fighting in the French army, has arrived in Paris after many stirring experiences. He has been wounded five times, but is still undaunted. His adventures started immediately after he left America, when he caught a spy with three valises loaded with explosives with which the man was about to blow up the steamer. For this Kane received the red, white and blue salvage medal.

Wounded in Reims Battle.

Enlisting in the French army in August, 1914, Kane, whose Chicago home was at 1825 Fulton street, was in a battle four miles from Reims when a German rifle bullet pierced his leg. He received another leg wound at Reims in March, 1915, when, exhausted and cold, he lay for eighteen hours on the ground with nothing to eat. Being sent to Algeria for convalescence, he recovered his strength and then took part in the Dardanelles expedition under General Gouraud. The French advanced seven kilometers (4.2 miles) to Sed-ul-Bahr, where they were forced to entrench. There Kane was twice wounded, once by a bullet in the head and once by a shell fragment in the leg. He was attended by English doctors and his skull was trepanned. He was wounded the fifth time before Monastir, when the French attacked with the bayonet, after a three hours' bombardment. At that place his arm was broken by a bullet, so that he was compelled to remain a long time in hospital at Saloniki.

Proposed for Military Medal.

At Saloniki he was visited by Gen. Sarraill and was proposed for the military medal. He has three colonial medals for bravery and distinguished conduct. When fighting in the trenches in France, Kane's captain told him to take two men, cross "no man's land" and bring back a prisoner, as certain information was needed. Kane went

alone at night and, covered by a heap of straw, lay quiet each time an illuminating rocket exploded. He advanced slowly until he finally jumped into the German trench, grabbed the first Teuton he saw and rushed back.

Kane, who was born in Baton Rouge, La., and is about to return to Saloniki, says: "I am seeking only to do my duty."

CHICKEN JOE CAMPBELL'S LAST REPRIEVE

Governor F. O. Lowden granted a fifth reprieve to Chicken Joe Campbell last Friday to allow him time for the presentation of his case to the April term of the Supreme Court. F. L. Barnett appeared before the governor in behalf of the prisoner and State's Attorney Martin, of Joliet, appeared in opposition.

Campbell's lawyers, F. L. Barnett and A. B. Cowing, have the transcript of the evidence almost completed, but there remains the cost of the clerk's fee of Will county in the case, which amounts to about \$300. Besides that, the costs in the Supreme Court and the cost of printing the abstracts, brief and argument in the case will require in the neighborhood of \$500 more, so that it will be necessary to raise at least \$1,000 to give Campbell the benefit which he must have in order to save his life.

Renewed interest is being taken in the case by reason of the fact that this is the last application that will be made for reprieve. Efforts will be made by citizens outside of Chicago as well as in Chicago to help raise the defense fund.

Campbell has no money, but the expenses thus far have been met by public subscriptions which have amounted to over \$1,200. The public which made generous response at the time of the trial has had a good resting spell, and they will no doubt respond generously to the final rally which starts next week.

Mrs. Mamie Clark, 6155 Wentworth avenue, is still in Hemple, Mo., where she went to attend the last illness and funeral of one of her uncles. She will remain there for several weeks longer and assist to settle up his estate.

TWO COLORED MEN JUST FROM ALABAMA, WHERE THEY ARE UNACUSTOMED TO USING GAS, BLEW IT OUT ON RETIRING AND NEXT MORNING THEY WERE DEAD TO ALL THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD.

Regger Wallace and Ben Wilkins, of Regland, Ala., ten days in Chicago, residing at 312 East 30th street, were found dead in bed Wednesday morning from asphyxiation. Both were employed at the Union Stock Yards and expected to have their families join them here April 1st. Mr. Wilkins is the father of eight children and Regger Wallace was his son-in-law. The remains were removed to the morgue of the Emanuel Jackson Undertaking Company, 2961 State street, and are being held awaiting the arrival of the grief-stricken widows. Had a window been left partly open these two bread winners would doubtless be living today, and our Chicago housewives should use utmost precaution in advising new comers how to safely use gas and other modern equipment in our homes which they have not been accustomed to.

It is very important and it should be firmly impressed on the minds of all the colored people coming from the southern states to this city seeking work in the stock yards, that they should constantly carry in their pockets a card plainly stating on it what firm they are working for and in what department they are employed in, and in case that they should get lost or meet with serious accident it would not be hard to trace them down and locate their employers and the address of their new homes here in the city.

By simply stating that they work at the stock yards means nothing, for there are between forty and fifty thousand men and women employed in the stock yards, and it is the duty of the colored people who are already in the city to take the new comers by the hand, many of whom are from the backwoods from their section of the country, and assist them in every way to become useful citizens in this city.

Mr. Richard Moore, Jr., the popular dancing master, is having his voice waxed for Easter Monday night.